ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Title 2 - Administration of the Los Angeles County Code by changing the County Counsel's authorization to settle claims and lawsuits from $20,000 to $50,000 and providing the County Counsel authority to approve settlements in any administrative proceeding before the Civil Service Commission brought against the County or any department thereof.

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LY:ma

Requested: 4/9/21

Revised: 10/7/26

ORDINANCE NO._____

An ordinance amending Title 2 - Administration of the Los Angeles County Code relating to the authority of the County Counsel to settle claims and lawsuits and to approve settlements in any administrative proceeding before the Civil Service Commission brought against the County or any department thereof.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2.14.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2.14.020 Suits or ~~c~~Claims—Settlement ~~p~~Procedure.

A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, and except as otherwise delegated to the claims boards established by the Board of Supervisors, where, in the opinion of the ~~c~~County ~~c~~Counsel, the ~~b~~Board of ~~s~~Supervisors may legally compromise or settle any claim or suit by or against the ~~c~~County, or any officer thereof, the ~~c~~County ~~c~~Counsel shall report to the ~~b~~Board of ~~s~~Supervisors the results of ~~his~~their investigation concerning such suit or claim, together with such recommendation for its disposition as ~~he~~they may have, for the information of the ~~b~~Board of ~~s~~Supervisors in its action.

B. Where, after proper claim has been filed and upon investigation by the ~~c~~County ~~c~~Counsel, ~~he~~the County Counsel finds that there exists a probable liability on the part of the ~~c~~County of Los Angeles as to a claim or suit, and where the amount necessary to be expended in order to pay, settle, or compromise such claim or suit does not exceed the sum of ~~$20,000.00~~$50,000.00, the ~~c~~County ~~c~~Counsel is authorized to pay, settle, or compromise such claim or suit pending against the ~~c~~County of Los Angeles, or any officer or employee thereof for which the ~~c~~County may ultimately be liable, in an amount not exceeding ~~$20,000.00~~$50,000.00, as to any person, firm, or

corporation, without the necessity of first receiving the approval of the ~~b~~Board of ~~s~~Supervisors.

C. The ~~c~~County ~~c~~Counsel is further authorized to settle or compromise any claim or suit of the ~~c~~County of Los Angeles against third parties, where ~~he~~the County Counsel finds there exists a reasonable doubt or dispute as to the validity of said claim or suit, and where the amount claimed or prayed for does not exceed the sum of ~~$20,000.00~~$50,000.00, without the necessity of first receiving the approval of the ~~b~~Board of ~~s~~Supervisors. The ~~c~~County ~~c~~Counsel is authorized to execute and deliver to said third parties any and all releases, covenants not to sue, satisfactions of judgment, and any other instrument in writing necessary or advisable to be executed and delivered to said third parties in connection with the settlement of such claims or suits.

D. The County Counsel's approval is required to settle any petition or appeal that is the subject of an administrative proceeding before the Civil Service Commission brought against the County or any department thereof, except that the County Counsel may delegate to another department or County official, in writing, the authority to settle such matters without the County Counsel's approval. Such delegation may be revoked by the County Counsel, in writing, at any time.

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